

Minutes 19th March 2015
Elmstead Parish Council
Community Centre, School Road, Elmstead Market, CO7 7ET

Present: Councillors Bell (Chairman), Beecham, Fairweather, Grotier, Redding, Routledge, Beard and Kirby

Also present: District Councillors Fred Heaney and Rosemary Nicholls, County Councillor Carlo Guglielmi, Russ Cole - acting Chief Inspector Tendring District, Nigel Tedder and 12 members of the public

15/038 Apologies of Absence
Cllr Brock

15/039 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Non Pecuniary Interests
Cllr Beecham declared a non pecuniary interest in item 15/047 as he is a member of Elmstead in Bloom and item 15/053 as he is the Chairman of the Community Centre.
Cllr Routledge declared a non pecuniary interest in item 15/047 as she is a member of Elmstead in Bloom.
Cllr Grotier declared a non pecuniary interest item 15/051 as she is the deputy head of Elmstead Primary School.

15/040 Signing of the minutes from 19th February 2015
It was **resolved** to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 19th February 2015 as true and accurate.

15/041 Police Matters
Russ Cole, Temporary Chief Inspector, District Commander Tendring is attending our meeting to give his personal views on local policing and answer questions.
Russ Cole spoke at some length and detail about policing and crime in Tendring. For Elmstead it was his opinion that in general it's a safe place to live with no large groups of criminals. The main problem is the travelling criminal as Elmstead is a main transit route, with thefts from motor vehicles. Also there have been some violent crime incidents. The most dangerous place for young people now is at home on the internet. The police look at trends, problems and individuals and if we had a problem here he would put resources here. They are not seeing a pattern of increased crime due to the part night street lighting. PCSO numbers are decreasing but if there's something we want from our PCSO contact her and tell her. He emphasised that we need to report crime to the police.

15/042 Public Speaking
There is 5 minutes of public speaking
Please note that any questions that are to do with items on the agenda will be answered under the appropriate agenda item
Year 6 parents from Elmstead Primary School: From September their children will need to pay £220/term to pay for the school bus to the Colne Community College. They are not even guaranteed a place on that bus. They requested support from EPC and asked if they could get help in any way.

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Cllr Nicholls suggested that they organise a petition, present it to Cllr Ray Gooding (who introduced the increased charge) and get the press there. Cllr Beard suggested a working party to include the parents to tackle the issue. He also suggested writing to Wivenhoe as some of their year 6 leavers will be in the same position. Cllr. Heaney suggested writing to the education minister.

15/043 Clacton Road Development Plan

Nigel Tedder, Design Director for Go Planning Ltd will present a forthcoming planning application for 32 new houses on Clacton Road. Nigel Tedder presented the plans which would include 8 affordable homes. The access would be on to Clacton Road. Cllrs raised the following concerns: Whittings (neighbouring land) have gone into the market of cattle and there have been complaints of noise from the cattle from residents on Bromley Road, so there is a potential noise issue. The primary school is full, and a development here would likely mean an increase in traffic to the School. The village infrastructure does not support additional housing and the roads do not support additional traffic.

Mr Tedder pointed out that our current housing development schemes do not cater for the affordable housing need and that their plans provided modest growth in a sustainable location.

15/044 County Councillor report

Cllr Guglielmi to forward to the EPC office.

15/045 District Councillor reports

Cllr Nicholls: Part night street lighting, Rodney Bass said no to turning the lights back on.

30th March there will be a police street meet at the Lawford Venture Centre, he is trying to get people to attend.

15/046 Planning

Applications: None

Determinations:

15/00052/FUL Rosedene, Colchester Main Road, Arlesford. Demolition of existing single storey conservatory & construction of two storey extension with dormer windows together with conversion of garage to living accommodation with new roof.

Full Approval

Any applications or determinations for w/e 20th March?

15/00335/LBC Former Post Office, Clacton Road, Elmstead. Demolition of fire damaged building. To be determined 30th April.

The Cllrs expressed relief and delight that finally something was being done.

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15/047 Planters for South Green

Elmstead in Bloom suggest that EPC purchase 4 octagonal planters for the South Green. These will replace the 4 rectangular planters which are situated by the roadside. The new planters will be situated back from the road, as being so close to the road is harmful to the plants. (Salt spray from the road)

Elmstead in Bloom will make a donation to EPC for the full cost net of VAT, the planters will belong to EPC and be insured by EPC.

It was **resolved** that EPC would purchase the planters for South Green.

15/048 Dene Park

To discuss the possibility of contacting Colchester Council regarding options for this land.

It was **resolved** that we would contact Colchester Council.

Proposed Cllr Bell

Seconded Cllr Beecham

To discuss a first cut of the year and a cutting schedule to arrange with Mr. B Jennings?

Deferred to the April meeting.

15/049 Working Party

Working parties are required for the following issues/tasks:

Elmcroft car park – painting white lines to mark parking spaces.

Bus shelters – annual maintenance and possible addition of a window to the bus shelter opposite Oatlands.

Noticeboards – annual maintenance.

Stinky Lane – a way to counteract the occasional flooding.

Cllr Beecham: add item 15/053 as a working party item (maintenance of the community centre).

The working party is Cllr Bell, Cllr Beecham and Cllr Fairweather with possibly Cllr Redding over the Easter period. Cllr Fairweather will purchase some materials.

15/050 Finance

To listen to the finance report and approve the payments for March

It was **resolved** to accept the finance report and approve the payments for March.

Proposed Cllr Routledge

Seconded Cllr Kirby

Mrs Baxter will have holiday left at the end of the financial year, Council to decide how much can be carried over or be paid in lieu?

It was **resolved** that Mrs Baxter be paid for 20 hours of unused holiday and the remainder be carried over.

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Proposed Cllr Grotier
Seconded Cllr Routledge

15/051 Elmstead Primary School – grass cutting

EPS have approached EPC about the possibility of cutting their grass for them. What are EPC thoughts about this? What are the options for calculating a charge?

Cllr Grotier: EPS is in between groundsmen and needs the grass for next term. It's about the size of two football fields and will preferably be cut when the children aren't there.

It was agreed that EPC would arrange to cut the grass in the interim with the financial details to be worked out later.

15/052 Local Plan

To discuss with our County and District Councillors the results of the planning decisions for Meadow Close and Church Road. Also to discuss how the absence of a completed local plan is affecting potential development in Elmstead.

Public – Mr Gerald Bevan stated that the residents of Meadow Close had signed an objection letter to TDC which referred to a covenant that Meadow Close should remain a retirement village, but that when he raised this at the TDC planning meeting he was told nothing was known about a covenant and that it did not make a difference.

Cllr. Guglielmi explained that a covenant is outside the planning process, it's a civil matter up to the author of the covenant to enforce. As such it's outside the planning process.

The public asked: why did Cllr Nicholls push Meadow Close as long as the crossing for Colchester Road was put in? Cllr Nicholls responded that he had been advised that there was no planning reason to object and he has to abide by the rules. If it was rejected and went to appeal it would definitely be granted but with no crossing.

County Councillor Carlo Guglielmi attended the meeting to update us regarding the local plan and potential developments in Elmstead: TDC planning are not powerless to refuse applications. They have refused an application for 60 houses in Great Oakley and will see what happens on appeal. TDC are in a test period at the moment to see what happens with appeals. This is a lengthy process where applicants have 6 months to appeal and it can take 3-4 months to go to committee.

The local plan won't be finalised for another 12-15 months. There will not be another call for sites to go in the plan.

In absence of a local plan the default policy is the national planning policy framework where planning should be sustainable and not impact adversely on the local environment. Sustainability includes education and medical provision factors.

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15/053 Community Centre

Cllr Beecham to provide quotes for work required to be done on the Community Centre.

See item 15/049

15/054 Communications

Items of interest for inclusion in our May Upmarket report.

The Clerk to draft a report.

15/055 Date of Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting

EPC resolved on 18th September 2014 to hold the Annual Parish Meeting 30 minutes before the normal Parish Council Meeting in April. This will be during the period of time known as "Purdah" where restrictions apply to Council communications and publicity, neither of which should seek or be perceived to be seeking to gain influence during this election period. Subject to confirmation that we may change this decision, do EPC consider it prudent to hold the Annual Parish Meeting after the Purdah period?

It was **resolved** to change the Annual Parish Meeting to before the May meeting.

Proposed Cllr Redding

Seconded Cllr Grotier

15/056 Items for next agenda or for information only

To hear from councillors any items that they would like on the next agenda or of interest only

Cllr Routledge: Will be attending the Chairman's meeting at EALC on 2nd April if anyone has anything they wish her to raise?

Cllr Redding: It was unclear what EPC had determined to do for the ladies who came about the school bus (under item 15/042). He suggested that we keep in contact with them, support where we can and clarify in what way we can help and contribute.

Cllr Beecham: Is going to the Police Partnership Conference on 24th March with Cllr Brock.

Meeting closed at 22.15

Signature

Date